



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 10
1200 Sixth Avenue
Seattle, WA 98101

10.11.1

May 23, 2002

Reply To
Attn Of: ECL-115

Patti Stone
Colville Confederated Tribes
P.O. Box 150
Nespelem, Washington 99155

Dear Ms. Stone:

This is to provide an update on assessment activities by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in relation to the ongoing investigation of hazardous substance contamination along the northern reaches of the upper Columbia River. As you are aware, a number of mines/mills in Pend Oreille County, Washington were visited in the Summer of 2001, as part of EPA's assessment activities. The visits were conducted by Ecology & Environment, Inc. (E & E), an authorized contractor for the EPA.

A summary of the mine/mill-specific findings can be found in Sections 6, 7, and 8 of the enclosed report. Of the 21 mine/mill sites visited, sampling was conducted at five sites. Namely, the Pend Oreille Mine/Mill, Grandview Mine, Blue Bucket Mine, Oriole Mine and Josephine Mine. EPA is currently evaluating the findings associated with these sites.

With regard to the other 16 mine sites visited, EPA concurs with E & E's recommendation that no further action under the federal Superfund program is warranted at these sites. A list of those mines sites can be found on page 8-5 of the enclosed report.

A report summarizing the findings of visits conducted at mine sites located in Stevens County, Washington and the findings of sediment sampling activities conducted along the upper Columbia River is anticipated by late Summer 2002. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (206) 553-0323.

Sincerely,

Monica Tonel
Site Assessment Manager

Enclosure



1 Paper